

REMARKS

Claims 32-72 are pending in the application.

Claim 32-55 have now been cancelled.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C.

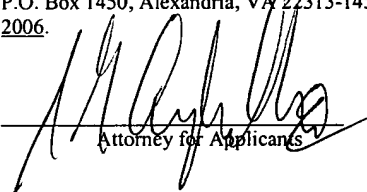
§ 121:

Group I. Claims 32-55, drawn to the time division multiplexing (TDM), classified in class 370, subclass 321.

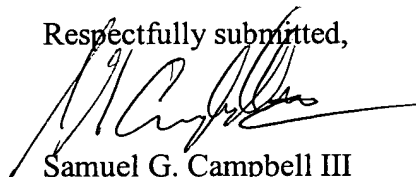
Group II. Claims 56-72, drawn to the multiple levels of multiplexing to form a multiplex hierarchy, classified in class 370, subclass 541.

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, the applicants hereby elect, without traverse, to prosecute claims 56-72, drawn to the multiple levels of multiplexing to form a multiplex hierarchy, classified in class 370, subclass 541.

Please cancel claims 32-55 without prejudice to the subject matter disclosed therein.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on <u>October 24, 2006</u> .	
 Attorney for Applicants	<u>10/24/06</u> Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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